

the Bullet

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March 6, 2003

SCENE

Thirteen Naked Chicks?!
BellaCappella show all and tell all.

See page 8.



FEATURES

MWC student takes part in hot new Civil War movie, fails to fall asleep.

See page 4.



inside

NO, NOT GENOCIDE:

Student argues that what one called genocide, was not.

See Page 3.

SORORITY AT MWC?

The proposal was bound to surface...

See Page 4.

BURNS'S LOVE:

Ken Burns says if he were a woman, he'd be pregnant.

See Page 12.

weather



TUAT:

Rain with a high of 43 and a low of 26.

FRIDAY:

Friday with a high of 55 and a low of 40.

SATURDAY:

Few showers with a high of 56 and a low of 36.

SUNDAY:

Partly cloudy, wind with a high of 50 and a low of 30.

verbatim

"I think it's hilarious. The French suck."

Sara Brecht

Hundreds Rally Against Anti-Gay Protestors

Six Members Of The Westboro Baptist Church Protest 'The Laramie Project'



A counter-protester with a sign.

By PHILLIP GRIFFITH
News Editor

After the cast of "The Laramie Project" led a chorus of "Amazing Grace" in protest of the viewpoints of the of the Westboro Baptist Church Saturday night, the cast members headed back towards duPont to perform.

"Let's go do this show," one of them said.

"Let's go tell this story," another one answered.

Everyone around them promptly got goosebumps.

At 8 p.m. on March 1, six anti-gay members of the Kansas-based Westboro Baptist Church protested the college's production of "The Laramie Project" outside the college's front gates on College Avenue. About 150 students and community members protested the Westboro church members, and about another 350 students went to a college-led candlelight vigil against hatred held at the same time.

Senior Matt Murphy was one of the students who attended the protest.

"It's so beyond everything I've ever seen before," he said. "I'm glad that people are glad to come out here in the cold to show solidarity against hatred."

"The Laramie Project" is a drama by a Moises Kaufman and the Tectonic Theatre Project. The play explores the reactions of the townspeople of Laramie, Wyo. after the brutal 1998 kidnapping and murder of homosexual college student Matthew Shepard. The Department of

Theatre and Dance put on eight performances from Feb. 20 to March 2 with the last three shows selling out.

Anti-gay pastor Fred Phelps heads the Westboro Baptist Church, which has about 60 members. Most of the church members are Phelps' friends, children and grandchildren. The church protests daily and at showings of "The Laramie Project" around the country. Phelps and his church are also shown picketing Shepard's funeral and the trial of his murderers in the play.

Junior Nathan Figueroa was an actor in the play and is the president for People for the Rights of Individuals of Sexual Minorities (PRISM).

"I think the shows were much better when the Phelps people were here," Figueroa said. "Suddenly we were talking

about Laramie and we were like 'Laramie is Fredericksburg.'"

PRISM held a fund-raiser where people contributed a dime to Equality Virginia for every minute the protesters were in front of the college. They collected over \$600 so far and hope to collect at least \$1,000.

The six church members were on the residential side of College Avenue, and all counter-protesters were on the college side. Nine college police officers and

see **PROTEST**, page 2



Top: A student in 'The Laramie Project' singing 'Amazing Grace.' Bottom: the members of the Westboro Baptist Church.

'We Chose Before, To Do What Our Country Asked'

Two MWC Seniors Forced To Leave Classes, Ship Off For Iraq

By WORTH STOKES
Assistant Photo Editor

Sgt. Jack Smith planned to spend spring break snowboarding in West Virginia with his girlfriend, Jessica Williamson, but instead he'll be on a flight to Kuwait with Lance Cpl. Michael Corcoran and the rest of the third Platoon, Delta Company.

"I was going to cook dinner for her every night," Smith said.

Instead, Jessica Williamson will be eating alone.

Smith and Michael Corcoran, both seniors at Mary Washington College with roughly six weeks to go before graduation, received orders this week to report to Quantico, Va. for active duty. Two of several local members of the U.S. Marine Corps reserves, Smith and Corcoran withdrew from the college on Wednesday and started packing.

"I don't want to see Jack or any of these guys go, but if they have to leave, there couldn't be a better group," said Williamson, who has been dating Smith for the last six

months.

According to Mary Kemp, assistant registrar for Degree Audit, for any student presenting military orders showing that he or she has been called to active duty the Office of the Registrar immediately cancels the student's registration for the semester. It is not considered a withdrawal, and the student must begin the semester again upon return.

Smith and Corcoran wish they did not have to start over, but at least they get a full refund of tuition.

"It's bogus," Smith said. "We're going off to fight for our country and they won't take care of us. I mean—I was doing good this semester."

Kemp said that the college, not the military, determines policy regarding a student's withdrawal.

"Incompletes are given only for the reasons of extensive illness or emergency in the final portion of the semester," Kemp said. "If such a student chose to take incompletes instead of canceling registration, there would be no

see **MARINE**, page 2

CAC Champions!

Men's Basketball To Head To NCAAs



Kathleen Tripodi/Bullet

MWC fans swarm Catholic University's basketball court after the underdog 25th-ranked MWC men's basketball team won its first ever Capital Athletic Conference Title on Saturday by defeating number ninth-ranked Catholic University 70-68 in the finals of the Conference tournament. The team now advances to the Division III NCAA tournament where it will play Alvernia College in Reading, Penn. on Thursday. Game time is scheduled for 7 p.m. For the full story, see page 6.

Eagle's Nest Offers 'Freedom' Fries

By CONOR REILLY
Staff Writer

The fries in the Eagle's Nest may look, feel, taste and smell French. But they are not.

The Eagle's Nest recently offered a meal including their normal deep-fried potatoes. But instead of calling them French fries, these were called "freedom" fries. The reason for the name change was due to criticism from the French government regarding the possible U.S. war with Iraq.

Assistant Director for the Eagle's Nest Mark Rabinowitz made the decision. "I am a patriot, so I guess I can say I was doing it to be patriotic," he said.

Rabinowitz added that he got the idea after he heard on the radio that a restaurant in North Carolina began marketing their French fries as freedom fries because of France's lack of support for the United States' wishes.

"I think it's hilarious. The French suck," said sophomore Sara Brech.

Sophomore Josh Morris, chairman of the College Republicans said, "I think it is a good idea."

Morris also said that he was surprised

that something politically motivated would be seen at Mary Washington College.

"I didn't think that something like this would be on any college campus," he said. Some students feel that protesting by renaming food items may not be the best way of action.

"It's insane," said freshman Ellen Ayres, a freshman. "We still eat Chinese food. And what about French toast?"

Freshman Dana Ferreira, president of the College Democrats said that, while he may not agree with it, the great thing about the United States is that people are allowed to voice opinions in this manner.

"If the Wood Company feels that political activism goes well with lunch, then they are entitled to that opinion," Ferreira said.

The idea of renaming food to express political dissatisfaction with another country is not new. During World War I, American restaurant and store owners changed the names of German products such as sauerkraut and hamburger to "liberty cabbage" and "liberty steak."

Leonard Koos, associate professor of French, finds the whole situation laughable.

"It is absolutely ridiculous," said Koos.

see **FREEDOM**, page 2

Police

By PORTSIA SMITH
Assistant News Editor

Beat



Feb. 21—Around 12:45 p.m., a purse was reported stolen from the Eagle's Nest. The contents of the purse were found the following day in a female restroom in Pollard Hall. The purse is still missing. There are no suspects and the case is under investigation.

Feb. 26—A college staff member in George Washington Hall reported that a female student verbally abused her on two occasions, first on Feb. 25 around 5 p.m. and again on Feb. 26 around 9:45 a.m. The staff member issued a warrant for cursing and using abusive language. The student received the warrant from the Fredericksburg magistrate in her room in Marshall Hall. A court date has not been determined yet.

Feb. 27—At 10: 12 p.m., three underage male students were found to be in possession of alcohol. Two cases of beer were confiscated from their room in Randolph Hall. They were

all referred to administration.

March 1—Around 1 a.m., a 19-year-old female student appeared to be ill in Russell Hall. It was determined that she had consumed alcohol and was intoxicated. She was referred to administration.

March 2—Around 11:30 a.m., a female student reported that her prescription medication was missing from her room in Ball Hall. The case is under investigation.

March 4—Around 11:45 a.m., campus police received a complaint that a person was sleeping on Hanover Street, near the Battleground. When campus police arrived to the scene, Fredericksburg police had already arrested the older homeless man. He was wanted in Fredericksburg for failure to appear in court. His identity was not revealed by Fredericksburg police.



Philip Griffith/Butler

The angels from Longwood University.

Protesters Had Fun Picketing MWC

▲ PROTESTS, page 1

about nine city police officers were on hand to prevent any outbreaks of violence.

"We just feel that for safety reasons, we need to keep a separation," said Public Affairs Officer Jim Shellhorse. "We have to be prepared."

The Church members carried signs that read, "God Blew Up The Shuttle," "Matt in Hell," and "Thank God for Sept. 11." During the protest, they mostly held up their signs and occasionally sang a few songs.

Rebekah Phelps-Roper, 15, is the granddaughter of Fred Phelps and was one of those protesting. Pastor Phelps did not attend the protest.

"We just want our message seen, and that's what we got," she said. "I had fun."

Phelps-Roper said the group traveled two days to come to protest at the college, and its members don't mind if other groups protest them.

"We don't care," Phelps-Roper said. "Our job is to publish the message, and if other people want to disagree with it that, then that's just fine."

Students sang "Amazing Grace," "We Shall Overcome" and "This Little Light of Mine," as well as carried signs that read "Don't hate, integrate," "All we need is love" and "God loves all his children."

Senior Deborah Shear wore a shirt that read, "Hate is not an MWC value."

"The protest wasn't really what I expected, but I think the school is handling it well," Shear said. "I kind of expected something more vocal and in your face."

Neither the protesters nor the counter-protesters shouted or talked to each other during the hour-long protest.

Ron Stinson, a Fredericksburg resident who owns Firehouse Antiques, carried a sign that read "Haters go to hell."

"I can't stand haters," Stinson said. "That's the only thing I hate in life."

Stinson said he wants students to come to his shop and write their names on his sign to help raise funds to fight the Westboro Baptist Church.

The Westboro Church members also picketed at local area churches. Stinson said he was going

to go protest them at those churches.

Senior Alex Naden organized having some students carrying signs saying "Free Mandela," "No taxation without representation" and "Boycott protests." Naden said he did this in an attempt to make the Westboro protest a farce.

"It just makes the whole thing silly," Naden said. "Making a joke out of it is the best way to deal with strong ideas like this."

Fifteen students dressed as angels from Longwood University also drove 2.5 hours to protest the Westboro church. Longwood performed "The Laramie Project" last year, but there were no protesters.

"We just decided to do something because not doing something makes it seem like it's OK," said Longwood graduate student Hillary Smith.

Two of the students from Longwood also put tape over their mouths. Smith said one student wrote, "God is love" on the tape to counter Westboro's views.

"The other girl in our group had to put tape over her mouth so she wouldn't get in trouble," Smith said.

The Student Government Association and PRISM organized the Candlelight Vigil that began at 7 p.m. in the Great Hall. Carrying lit candles, hundreds of students walked to the front of duPont Hall.

Junior Jason Echols saw the play twice and went to the Vigil.

"It obviously just really upset me that Fred Phelps was saying all of these horrible things," Echols said. "I'm tired of people saying things like that. I'm tired of people saying God hates homosexuals."

He also said it was beautiful to see all the people at the Vigil and the counter-protest.

"I never expected this college to show out this much support," Echols said. "I feel this college is pretty apathetic, and it's pretty encouraging to see we are not."

Cast member Figueroa said he was really pleased by all the student support for the play and against hate.

"It's amazing," Figueroa said. "I walk down campus and people say the show was great."



Nation In Brief

By Lindsay Bacon

Nude Man Runs Free

BINGHAMTON, N.Y.—A mysterious man in New York just can't seem to keep his clothes on—or his feet still. He was seen running through a parking garage in the early afternoon as the temperature remained just below freezing, reported the Associated Press. Although the man has been seen running in the nude at least 20 times since August he has managed to evade police each time. Police say that they can't figure out how he keeps escaping them.

Fake Minn. Twin Strikes Out

MINNEAPOLIS—Dewitt Alonzo Davison, 21, pretended to be a Minnesota Twins baseball player so he could buy a one million-dollar house but was caught in the scheme when a falsified document he presented had multiple spelling and grammar errors. Davison said that he did it to impress his fiancé and her family, reported the Associated Press. The falsified document was a supposed letter from the Twins verifying his financial status. He said that he had just been signed to the team for \$17 million. Seller Robert Griggs became suspicious quickly and called the Twins organization. They told Griggs that they had no idea who Davison was. "[The letter] wasn't even on Twins letterhead," said Mark Naylor of the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office. Davison was arrested for being a military deserter. "It was a stupid little joke that went too far," Davison said. "I guess I was trying to impress some people."

This Play Has Gone to the Bats

KINGSLAND, Ga.—Hundreds of bats invaded and shut down the production of Camden County High School's "The Pirates of Penzance" until next month. The bats were discovered earlier in the week. "It felt sort of like a movie," said Dean Slusser, the school's fine arts director. "I would guess at least a couple dozen were active in the hallway. We just propped the doors and let them fly [out]." That worked until many of the bats decided they liked their newfound rafters home. According to the Associated Press, Dr. Will Hardin, the county's assistant school superintendent, called the U.S. Department of Agriculture for help. "Their recommendation was to remove some bricks near the roof of the auditorium and replace the space with wire," Hardin said. "It's like a one-way arrangement. They can get out, but can't get back in."

Hot Dogs Escape Grilling

UTICA, Mo.—Thousands of Ball Park Beef Franks spilled across a highway in northwest Missouri when the tractor-trailer carrying them crashed. Some were in boxes, others were shrink-wrapped and some were individually tossed around, reported the Associated Press. The truck crashed when it failed to merge despite multiple warning signs and the lane ended. "I didn't notice the sign that said 'Left Lane Ends,'" said truck driver Charles Dennis. "I thought the lane was going to merge into my lane. As I was going down the hill, I saw the flashing lights. I didn't expect the curve to be so close to the lights. I began braking and my trailer ended up in the median." Dennis was not injured.

A Numerical Exorcism

VANCELEVE, Ky.—The phone number 666-5000 just wasn't working for the Kentucky Mountain Bible College. After months of trying to get it changed the Christians who go to the college can rest easy, reported the Associated Press. The prefix 666 was the only one available in Vanceleville until recently and the school ran into trouble changing to the newly added 693 prefix because they wanted to keep their last four numbers the same. "We're just elated that the number has been changed," said Rob Roy MacGregor, the college's vice president of business affairs. "It was like we had this Scarlet Letter attached to us." Kaye Davis, a general counsel for the telephone company that serves the college, said that they were happy to help the school out. While some people were disturbed by having the mark of the beast in the phone number, The Rev. Vaughn Rasor said that most people seemed to take the 666 in stride. "If people start giggling when I give my phone number, I know they have at least read the Bible," Rasor said.

Students Trading Books For Guns, Boots

▲ MARINE, page 1

refund."

William Crawley, distinguished professor of History, currently teaches American Controversies in the History and American Studies department, in which Smith was enrolled. Smith dropped in Tuesday to say goodbye to the class. Crawley said that he detected a personal response in the students but not a political one.

"I purchased a little card, and everyone wrote a little note to send him off," Crawley said. "He's a very likeable person, and I think the students were sorry to see him leave, particularly for that reason. He was going to finish up this semester."

Mary Schmotzer, senior and *Bullet* staff writer, knows Smith because they are both American History majors and have shared classes since sophomore year. Since the two are friends, Schmotzer was not as shocked as other students when Smith announced his withdrawal.

"I think everyone else was surprised, but he was really just withdrawing. It's sort of real to us, but

not really," said Schmotzer.

Seeing a friend leaving school for war is really sobering."

Schmotzer also said that the students' withdrawal might encourage others to be more aware of the impending war with Iraq.

Senior Peter Fravel shares an apartment with Smith and says that he is happy for his roommate.

"I think it's unfortunate that he couldn't finish, but I think Jack understands his commitment to the Marine Corps and he's happy to be going with his unit," Fravel said. "Those people look up to him."

Fravel will graduate in May with a B.A. in Philosophy and plans to sign up for the legal program offered by the U.S.M.C.

Corcoran and Smith will spend several days in Quantico before leaving next week with the rest of their platoon. They expect to be gone for the duration of the war.

Smith said people think that they pray for war to happen, but it isn't true.

"Every day we just hope it doesn't happen, but if it does, we have to go. We volunteer to protect

our country, and we go where our country needs us," Smith said. "We don't have a choice or an opinion now, because we chose before to do what our country asked."

Corcoran, a computer science major, wanted the experience the U.S.M.C. offers. Corcoran said he never wanted anyone to look at his hands and say he spent his whole life behind a desk.

"But I didn't actually think I'd ever have to fire a shot in combat," said Corcoran.

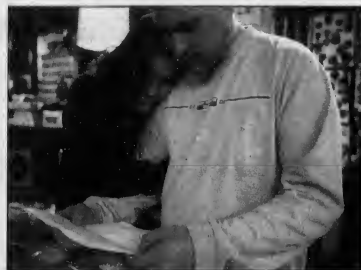
Nest's Anti-French Sentiment

▲ FREEDOM, page 1

"There has been a vogue in French-bashing in recent years."

According to a CNN web site, restaurant owner Neal Rowland of Beaufort, North Carolina was the first to replace French fries with "freedom" fries. Some business owners have taken more extreme steps than this. It was reported that a bar owner in Florida poured all of his French wine into the street.

Rabinowitz said, "I was trying to have a little fun with it. I was just switching up the menu for that day." He also added that the Eagle's Nest does not have plans to permanently refer to their fries as "freedom" fries. "We probably won't do this again," Rabinowitz said.



Worth Stokes/Bullet

Seniors Sgt. Jack Smith and Jessica Williamson.

Viewpoints

your opinions

Editorial

Salute

While not everyone agrees with the potential war with Iraq, students at Mary Washington College thankfully remember it is not the choice of the soldiers to go.

While veterans of Vietnam were harassed upon their return, we at *The Bulletin* hope that is not the fate of the soldiers who serve in the Middle East. The positive good-byes to Sgt. Jack Smith and Lance Cpl. Michael Corcoran promise an easier return.

Whatever the outcome of the current situation, we feel safe in saying that at least the entire *Bullet* staff wishes them safely home, as, we're sure, do many others on this campus.

Bye, Bye, Bye

This past Saturday the men's basketball team captured the Capital Athletic Conference Championship title for the first time in the history of Mary Washington College basketball, automatically advancing them to the NCAA Tournament.

However, the Eagles did not receive the first round bye, which was awarded to Catholic University who the Eagles beat in the CAC tournament.

The national committee made an unfair decision in deciding to pass up the Eagles for the bye, especially after the winning season that they have had so far. Their massive progress can be seen in comparing their record of 10-16 from last season to their present record of 24-4.

Despite the fact that Catholic University defeated the Eagles twice during the regular season games, the Eagles proved their persistence by defeating Catholic 70-68 in the final round of the CAC championship tournament. This alone should be enough proof for the national committee that the Eagles were deserving of the bye.

Nonetheless, the fact of the matter is that Catholic University's team is probably more prominent than the Eagles, which explains why they received the bye.

Even if the Eagles do not advance past the first round of the NCAA tournament, they have set a high standard of excellence for Mary Washington College athletic teams.

'Nothing But Fluff'

MICHAEL HAGAN
Guest Columnist

I'll begin with the only thing I liked and agreed with in "Charging the U.S. With Genocide," published Feb. 13: "So do something." I fully agree, political apathy is the antithesis of democracy. People should push themselves to become involved in politics and allow their voices to be heard, which is something we do not hear enough of in this great nation. Good job Ms. Lloyd. This is also why I am writing this response to the same article.

The claim that the United States was, and is, guilty of promoting genocide upon the African-American citizens of this nation is preposterous. It is even more preposterous to believe that we are extending any kind of genocide overseas.

First, we'll logically take apart the article. If we look at the two definitions of genocide that Ms. Lloyd provides us with in her article,

we see that the first one is meant to incite passion in people; there is nothing but fluff in this definition. So we'll look at the definition of genocide that comes from the U.N. We should look at the policies of the United States from 1948 to present in comparison with the policies of other nations, as the legality of ex post facto prosecutions is questionable at best. We'll look to part a first: "Killing or causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group."

Was the United States still working towards more equal rights for African-Americans? Yes, the 15th amendment is clear proof of that.

Were there still incidences of racism? Yes, but I'll contend, and I would think everyone would agree, that no one policy is able to spontaneously induce an attitude

change in the public. This means that while there were still incidences of blatant racism that inflicted bodily harm upon African-Americans, the intent of the United States government was not in sharing with this attitude. To blame the United States of genocide in this case would be like prosecuting a war on Russia now for still trying to get out of the grips of communism.

Part b of this definition states, "Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part."

If Ms. Lloyd were showing that the United States was calculating post-1948 the elimination of African-Americans as a group, then I would be shocked, as I think everyone else would.

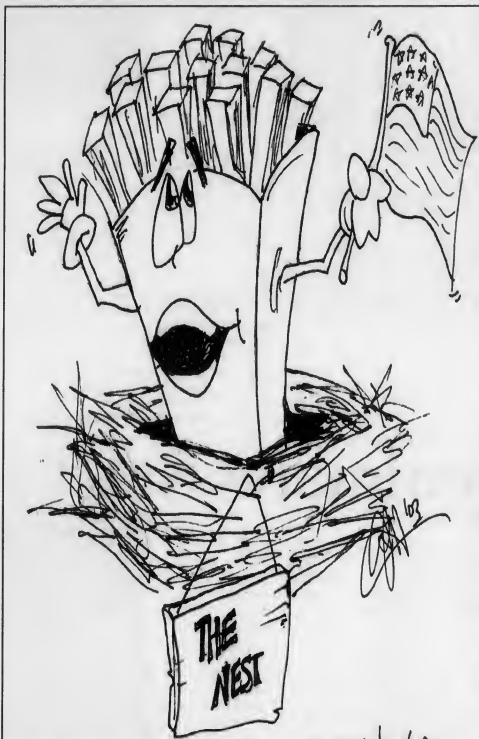
We should also look at this from a comparative standpoint. The USSR was still executing people for "state crimes" in 1948, and the world had just exited a war in which a man tried to exterminate all the Jewish, homosexual, and any other contrary religion from the world. Two particular nations in the Middle East in the 1980s were involved in a massive war in which they not only killed and maimed each other but one nation even gassed its own people en masse. More recently, Slobodan Milosevic attempted the extermination of whole ethnic groups from his country. In Africa, the Hutus and Tutsis were having, some might argue, reciprocal attempted genocides. The list goes on.

Ms. Lloyd then makes a reference to a Mr. Patterson who claims that the "United States is exporting racism," which Ms. Lloyd seems to take as exporting genocide. Unfortunately, I don't see any proof for this claim so I won't offer any for her here.

The article then attempts to portray

▼ see **GENOCIDE**, page 11

**"I don't think
(the UN)
would
commit itself
to genocidal
actions."**



Hatred, Ignorance And Violence

BETH MILLS
Guest Columnist

Recently I have been plagued by several events. They have all called to question one thing. What are we willing to tolerate; as a nation? As a college? As human beings? Everywhere I turn I see the ugly face of violence, the child of ignorance, and it leaves a huge lump in my throat.

Last month I went to see "Bowling for Columbine" and my heart ached as I watched Michael Moore illustrate instances of homicide in the U.S. and compare us to other nations which have exponentially fewer homicides. Why? It's not Marilyn Manson or metal music or even the number of guns we buy. Canada buys its fair share as well. Moore says it's because we are a nation of fear, and I agree. We are so damn scared of each other, it's killing us.

Look for instance, at our present situation with Iraq. The news aired a story telling us to cover our windows with plastic sheeting and duct tape. I don't know how many of you are biology majors or even

▼ see **VIOLENCE**, page 11

Bullet Letter and Editorial Policy

The *Bullet* is always eager to receive letters to the editor and guest columns, and every effort is made to print them. If there are numerous letters on one subject, a sampling of the best letters will be selected.

Letters should be typed, double-spaced, and submitted the Monday before publication. All letters and columns are subject to editing for length and clarity. Letters should be no longer than 300 words, and columns should not exceed 700 words. The *Bullet* reserves the right to withhold libelous material.

The *Bullet* does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, disability, national origin, political affiliation, marital status, sex, age or sexual orientation.

The *Bullet* will not publish anonymous letters or columns. All letters must be signed, and a phone number and address must be included to facilitate verification of authorship of the letter. Letters and columns can be mailed to *The Bulletin* at 1701 College Avenue, Fredericksburg, VA, 22401-4666, delivered to our office in Seacobeck Hall or sent to our email address at bullet@mw.edu.

Opinions expressed in columns or letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of *The Bulletin* staff. The staff editorial represents the opinions of *The Bulletin* editorial board and not necessarily those of the college, student body or entire *Bullet* staff.

the Bulletin

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Letters to the Editor

What's The Point?

Dear Editor:

Maybe I think about people too much, but if you're going to choose to do something, then it has to have a point. But more than that, your point has to have a point. Kids who go to "The Laramie Project" have a point. But what about those who are going to protest this Phelps character to make a point, but wouldn't have gone otherwise?

Those who go just to go. It's not like they would have seen it otherwise, so isn't there something very shallow about them? They're like protest groups. Their protests have a point, but at the same time, the rationale for doing it is very pointless. And then there's the

kids who say to go, but to just ignore him when you get there. If you really wanted to ignore him, why not go a different night? One would be so offended by what he has to say, it would be impossible to even take in what the play is offering.

On a sidenote, I can't wait to hear stories about people trying to interact with this dude. He could make you look like a dumbass, or just say something so inflammatory, that you lose control, further making you look like a dumbass. I don't understand why people want to see Phelps. I guess it's sort of a freak-show mentality, where people just think, "That must be what a bigot looks like. I've never seen one up close before."

Kevin Butler is a freshman.

Features

extras about people and places

Fast Fact:

No one interesting is born on March 7 except for two editors of the *Bullet*.

thumbs



to people who wear sandals with no socks when it's 25 degrees outside.



to tax refunds and \$500 checks.



to academic advisors who don't do their job.



to one day before Spring Break!



to all the tests and papers due before Spring Break.



to the mens' basketball team winning their first CAC title.

in the stars

Aries - Your popularity is on the rise. People think of you as warm and fuzzy, and have a secret desire to hug you.

Taurus - You know that how you dress will inevitably send a message to those around you. In this case, your message is "Help! Help!"

Gemini - Excellent time to start a new company, making software to help people with mental problems.

Cancer - Go nowhere without a flotation device, for a few days. You never know.

Leo - A man with a single eyebrow is following you. You haven't borrowed any money lately?

Virgo - If you act now, you could be the first on your block to have an actual moat and a working drawbridge. Something to consider.

Libra - Good time to compliment your friends. If you can't think of anything else to say, tell them they're looking "very buff."

Scorpio - Excellent day to study gastroenterology, or possibly to go bowling.

Sagittarius - You will become trapped in the sofa again. People will point and laugh.

Capricorn - Remember: people who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones. It's ok to throw mashed potatoes, however.

Aquarius - Happy Frog Day!! Let's hear it for our little amphibious friends!

Pisces - Good day to learn to play the tuba.

The Making of the Civil War Student Plays Extra in Film

By TERRY NORTON
Staff Writer

"They're gonna put me in the movies. They're gonna make a big star out of me."
"Act Naturally" The Beatles-1965

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Photo Courtesy of www.rommaxwell.com/godsandgenerals
Actors Ron Maxwell, Stephen Lang, Robert Duvall and Bruce Boxleitner.

I ended up way in the back of the theater. Donna was way up in front about 10 seats away from the two stars. The director called for a short break to shift the crowd around. This moved Donna along with other sharks further away from the cameras. While Daniels stood and stretched, Sorvino left her seat and sat against the wall behind me.

Two women in front of me asked her if they could have their picture taken with her. She gave a shy smile and soft-spoken response. I took the picture. "Where did you get the dress?" Sorvino asked me.

"I made it," I told her. "I've made all my dresses." "Really?" She was impressed. We started talking about sewing but didn't have a lot of time to chat. Maxwell was ready to film again. After Sorvino returned to her spot, I wondered briefly what Donna was doing.

"Well, I hope you'll come and see me in the movies."

I don't have any pictures of my adventure. I just have a lot of memories – some fun and some weird. For my efforts, I received a t-shirt with a "Gods and Generals" logo on the front and "Background Artist" splashed across the back, excellent food and the chance to find out what a Grip is.

However, when the movie hits the theaters, I'll be there hoping to see myself just like all the other extras. I wonder if I'll see Donna.

"They're gonna put me in the movies. And all I gotta do is act naturally."

Freshmen Jessica Pritchard.

• **SORORITY**, page 5

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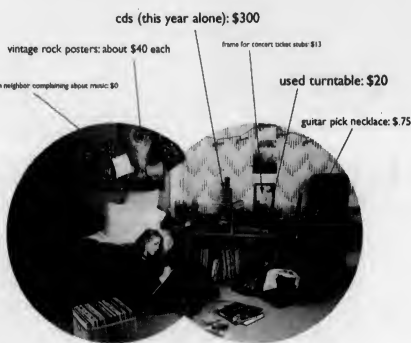
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Features

extras about people and places

Fast Fact:

No one interesting is born on March 7 except for two editors of the *Bullet*.

thumbs



to people who wear sandals with no socks when it's 25 degrees outside.



to tax refunds and \$500 checks.



to academic advisors who don't do their job.



to one day before Spring Break!



to all the tests and papers due before Spring Break.



to the mens' basketball team winning their first CAC title.

in the stars

Aries - Your popularity is on the rise. People think of you as warm and fuzzy, and have a secret desire to hug you.

Taurus - You know that how you dress will inevitably send a message to those around you. In this case, your message is "Help! Help!"

Gemini - Excellent time to start a new company, making software to help people with mental problems.

Cancer - Go nowhere without a flotation device, for a few days. You never know.

Leo - A man with a single eyebrow is following you. You haven't borrowed any money lately?

Virgo - If you act now, you could be the first on your block to have an actual mou and a working drawbridge. Something to consider.

Libra - Good time to compliment your friends. If you can't think of anything else to say, tell them they're looking "very buff."

Scorpio - Excellent day to study gastroenterology, or possibly to go bowling.

Sagittarius - You will become trapped in the sofa again. People will point and laugh.

Capricorn - Remember: people who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones. It's ok to throw mashed potatoes, however.

Aquarius - Happy Frog Day!! Let's hear it for our little amphibious friends!

Pisces - Good day to learn to play the tuba.

The Making of the Civil War Student Plays Extra in Film

By TERRY NORTON

Staff Writer

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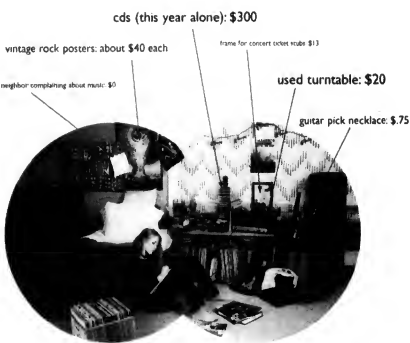
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cds (this year alone): \$300

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There are some things money can't buy for everything else there's MasterCard.



Sports

the latest athletic news and information

Fast Fact:

If you screamed continuously for eight years, seven months and six days, you would produce enough energy to heat coffee.

schedule

Men's Basketball

March 6: at Alvernia College

Men's Lacrosse

March 8: vs Dickinson College

Women's Lacrosse

March 9: vs Gettysburg College

Baseball

March 8: vs Suny New Paltz

Softball

March 16: at Villa Julie College

scores

Men's Basketball

Feb. 27: Goucher College
W 75-61

March 1: Catholic University
W 70-68

Women's Basketball

Feb. 27: Marymount University
L 71-65

Baseball

March 4: Washington & Lee U.
L 9-2

athlete of the week

The Sixth Man

MWC fans crowded the stands both in Goolrick and at Catholic University. They are the best fans in basketball.

CAC Champions

Men's Basketball Captures First Title Ever, Will Play Alvernia



Katy Valluzzo/Bullet

Senior Dan Dupras cuts down the nets, capping off a stellar conference season.

By PAM KRAMER

Assistant Sports Editor

This past Saturday at Dufour Gymnasium in Washington D.C., the Mary Washington College men's basketball team captured their first Capital Athletic Conference Championship over Catholic University, 70-68. The 25th ranked Eagle squad defeated the ninth ranked Cardinals for the first time this year, after having lost the past two regular season games to Catholic.

Sunday night, basking in their huge win, the team awaited their automatic bid to the National Tournament. They were also expecting a first round bye. However, they did not receive the bye. Catholic did instead.

"The national committee did a horrible job, and I would tell that directly to their face. They should all resign because they did a horrible job," MWC Head Coach Rod Wood said.

"In the regional rankings, we were number two and Catholic was number three. That was sent to the national committee, so somebody or some people on the national committee decided to flip-flop that, which irritates me," he said.

Now MWC (24-4) will play in the first round against Alvernia College (20-8) in Pennsylvania this Thursday. Despite this turn of events, it remains a record-breaking season for the Eagles. This is the first CAC championship the men's basketball team has received and the first ever bid to the NCAA National Championships Committee.

With this win, the MWC squad received one of the 35 automatic bids. There are 48 teams in the tournament. Five independent teams and eight other at-large teams from automatic qualifying conferences who did not receive their conference automatic qualification were selected by the Division III Championships Committee.

"The number one and number two seeds are supposed to receive a bye. However, the national committee supercedes the regional committee. Let me tell you, on the national committee, nobody knows about us. The only way they could have adjusted that was by saying 'oh, we know Catholic and therefore,'" Wood said.

Even though the Cardinals had the home court advantage on Saturday, the MWC fans far exceeded the Catholic fans, and the entire MWC section stood during the duration of the game.

Spectator senior Marc Salotti drove up from Fredericksburg to watch the game.

"It was an awesome game. I think the fans gave the team that little extra push that helped them top Catholic," Salotti said.

▼ see **GAME**, page 7

Fans Make A Difference In The Stands

By PAM KRAMER

Assistant Sports Editor

It's 7:30 p.m. on a Tuesday night. The Chipotle man is throwing out free burritos into the stands for the loudest cheerer. Dustin Yudowitch, a junior at Mary Washington College hands out flyers with, "10 Things to Remember When You're in the Stands Tonight." An entire Boy Scout troop piles into the back row of Goolrick Gymnasium, the only seats left in the house. And ruling over them all is Jesus. Well, close. It was junior Mike Newbold, dressed up in a borrowed robe from a church, in full beard, brandishing a walking stick and orchestrating cheers with his giant drum.

"He [Newbold] would wave his staff at the other team's players and wave his hand at our players to bless them. It was probably one of the funniest things I have seen in a long time," said junior Andrew Puddester, a friend of Newbold and fellow cheerer.

On this particular night, the MWC men's basketball team is playing Catholic University and the notorious home team advantage is in full effect.

As Catholic University's team enters the gym, the MWC fans boomed and yelled "you suck" at the team. Newbold paces the floor, waiting to pounce at any opportunity to make Catholic wish it never stepped foot in Fredericksburg. However, as the Eagle squad jogs in, thunderous applause replaces these insults, followed by the infamous "We've

got Wood" chant, directed toward MWC head coach Rod Wood.

"We've got the Duke fans of Division Three," Wood said of the zealous fans. "It helps me. I enjoy it."

So who are these passionate fans, the thorn in every visiting team's side?

They call themselves the "Goolrick Goonies," a group of eight or so brave

young men who dedicate their strong voices and relentless chants to the athletes of Mary Washington College. Their ring leader: Newbold, a laid back junior from Vienna with a passion to cheer and to dress up in the most excessive outfit he can think of.

"I dress up because it's a good time," Newbold said simply.

At the last home game versus the Goucher College Gophers, Newbold was clad in a pinstripe suit, bare-chested underneath with the exception of a necktie. His accessories of the night included out-of-date sunglasses, a

sweatband and braids. A stuffed gopher with a string attached to its neck was thrown around throughout the night.

Newbold, an ex-cross country runner and swimmer began cheering his freshman year, but was not well received.

"I brought my drum to the Homecoming game, and painted myself blue. It didn't go over too well, with no

one to really back me up; I pretty much pissed the majority of the people around off to the m a x."

Newbold said. The drum, a large snare drum with straps for the shoulders, is the anchor of all cheers. However, at one time, Newbold was forced to be resourceful.

"I've had that drum for about six years. Before that I used to make bucket drums, by screwing two buckets together and making a dust tape strap to put around my shoulders," Newbold said. In addition to the drum, Newbold has been known to bring a saxophone and a cowbell to games.



Katy Valluzzo/Bullet

Members of the Goolrick Goonies.

Often times at MWC, the fans are quiet and subdued, if there are fans at all. At this particular event, half the crowd is embarrassed, sitting down, cringing as the Goonies scream obscenities at the referees. However, with the help of the Goonies and Newbold, the embarrassed half emerges from its shyness and realizes just how fun being relentless is.

"We just make sure we get there early to get our front row seats and as soon as we get there we get acquainted with the names of the other team's players in the program. It's our players' job to play on the court and it's our job to make the other team's players feel really uncomfortable," Puddester, who is one of the Goonies, said.

This may consist of picking out a particular player on the opposing team with a strange name or finding a player who easily gets frustrated with the crowd. This game, the Goonies chose Adam Dickman. Each and every time Dickman received the ball, the group would chant his name. They dutifully received a middle finger from him at the end of the game.

"Last year we were really getting in the head of a player from Salisbury University and he flicked us off and cursed at us while playing on the court," Puddester said.

At a recent game, the crowd began to yell "midget" to a short player on the

▼ see **FANS**, page 7

Eagles Defeat Catholic, 70-68

▲ **GAME**, page 6

Junior Evan Fowler, a pivotal guard on the Eagles squad acknowledged that the fans did help. "I know that without our fans, I would not have played as well," he said.

Despite the problem in the selection process, if the Eagles continue to capitalize on other teams mistakes, as they did on Saturday, it will not matter that they had to play an extra game. The Eagles converted 18 Catholic turnovers into 25 key points making it impossible for the Cardinals to gain a lead.

At halftime MWC was ahead 40-36. This could be contributed to sophomore Jon Hurd's three of four three-pointers just in the first half. Hurd had 13 points total.

The Cardinals remained behind throughout the second half. However, the Eagles let them come back from a nine point deficit to within one point with 3:17 remaining.

"When they came out and scored the first couple of points in the second half, we were able to withstand the pressure and keep our composure," Fowler said.

Senior Cris Hairston's pass outside to junior Erik Rodriguez for a three pointer gave MWC a four point lead with 1:47 left to play. The Cardinals answered with a three-point play from Matt Hilleary, one of the Cardinals key players.

"I told the post players, they had to do a better job of denying the ball. If Hilleary got the ball, he was scoring. He was better than they were defensively, once he received the ball," Wood said.

Once again, Hairston answered back for two points and the Eagles were ahead by three. Fowler was given four free-throw chances, and capitalized on three of them, keeping the Eagles ahead for the win.

"Those were by far the biggest shots I ever took. I tried not to let myself realize how important those shots actually were," Fowler said.

As the final buzzer sounded, Hurd set up one last block to ensure the Eagles win and a place in history. Within seconds, the entire team was engulfed by the fans and mayhem ensued.

The Eagles will look for their first National Championship and face off with Alvernia College this Thursday at 7 p.m.

Goonies Give Goolrick A Lift

▲ **FANS**, page 6

opposing team. One fan was even told to leave the front row of the crowd and relinquish his megaphone.

So what are the players and coaches responses to Newbold's fanatic cheering?

"Our fans are incredible. They give us the extra energy and encouragement we need to excel. Personally, I know that I play harder and feed off the crowd and their excitement," starting point guard junior Evan Fowler said.

Wood agreed.

"When you have that type of support and things are going well, it tends to lift you up another notch. When things are going poorly and they get behind you with a chant of 'defense,' it tends to spark you," Wood said.

The group tries to keep the comments and yells G-rated, but sometimes they do get out of hand.

"Before the game they announce the code of conduct for CAC fans regarding no racist, sexist, threatening, or vulgar comments. The group obeys these rules 99 percent of the time. There is always

the occasional time that we get really upset and lose our temper," Puddister said.

It seems most of the group, who cover themselves in paint, half cut-open basketballs on their heads or blue wigs have something in common.

"I noticed that a lot of the fans who really get into the games are kids who either still play sports, or are ex-athletes like myself, Newbold and others," Goolrick Goomie Brendan Brody said. "I guess it's because we know how we would feel if a lot of fans came out and supported us, so we feel like we should be there for the other teams."

Newbold, a Biology and Education major said he is by no means a violent or even remotely vicious person. He said he is just there to have a good time and cheer his team on.

"We've got a pretty solid squad this year and that should be the reason to be out there. Don't get me wrong I appreciate the fact that folks participate along with us. I am simply a small part of a larger group," he said.



Kathleen Tripodi/Bullet



Katy Valluzzo/Bullet



Katy Valluzzo/Bullet



Kathleen Tripodi/Bullet

Clockwise from upper left: Fans packed the stands at Catholic University on Saturday. Coach Wood cuts down the nets with a smile. The bench waits anxiously as the game pushed forward. The entire team poses after winning the championship.

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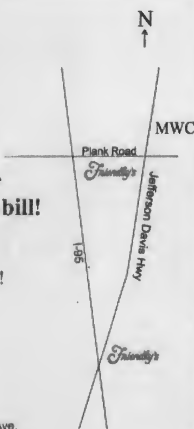
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"It was a lot of fun," said sophomore Carmela Gomez, the group's fashion advisor.

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▼ see BELLA, page 9



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Just How Safe Are Local Clubs?

Area Clubs Take A Serious Look Into Their Own Safety Measures After RI Club Fire

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After the night of Feb. 20's fatal fire at The Station Concert Club in West Warwick, R.I., many local clubs are questioning the safety of their own venues. Onstage pyrotechnics during a Great White performance ignited the small club, killing 98 people and injuring nearly 190 others.

The incident has brought about many concerns over the safety of clubs in our area; the question that is on everyone's mind is if could something like this happen around here.

"It is possible," said Kelowna Vincent, promoter of the Dollhouse, held once a month at The Black Cat nightclub in Washington D.C. "A tragedy can happen anytime, anywhere. All one can do is make sure preventative measures are in place, as well as key responses."

Following the R.I. club fire, the majority of nightclubs in the D.C. and Richmond areas were inspected extensively. Several clubs were forced to take measures to modify their safety.

"The extinguishers in the DJ booths are new," said Todd Pierce, promoter of the D.C. club Bar Nun. "They were not required but we added them for piece of mind. This way, the DJs will also have the ability to help out if a situation were to occur."

Bar Nun has clearly marked exits, which are required by the Building Officials Code Administrators International (BOCA), a sprinkler system and countless fire extinguishers located in each DJ booth, each bar, the office, the kitchen and at the main door.

"If something were to occur, our security and hosting staff, as well as

the DJs on the mic, are to direct patrons to one of four exits," said Pierce. "We also have multiple hardwired alarms that go directly to the fire station."

Midnight, a gothic/industrial/synthpop dance party, held Saturday nights at The Meeting Place in D.C. had to stop using candles as table lighting.

"While many clubs, particularly those in the gothic scene, use candles for lighting, we now prohibit them due to safety concerns," said Scott Royce, promoter of Midnight.

Revelations nightclub, held Thursday nights at the 929 Club in Richmond, recently added a paragraph about pyrotechnics in all of their contracts, regardless of the possibility of use or not.

"This does not mean that there will be less pyro use," said D.J. Stern, promoter of Revelations. "But I am betting that will be the case since most bands do not like to hassle with legal issues."

For the most part, the majority of clubs in the D.C. area already had some sort of emergency plan before the Rhode Island incident.

"We have multiple exits and all the staff is aware of the exits and of the danger of mass hysteria," said Vincent, Dollhouse promoter. "We would do our best to organize the crowd in a manner that would not provoke fear or chaos and direct them to the exits in an orderly fashion."

Chris Knight, promoter, manager, and DJ Xiane at the Dawning, held at the Tokyo Rose in Charlottesville, said that they also had an emergency plan.

"We would direct folks to calmly exit from the two clearly marked areas to the outside," Knight said. "It is a rather small club, which helps us keep control of the crowd."

▼ see FIRE, page 9

How Do You Wish You Were Spending Spring Break?

Photos and Interviews by Kathleen Tripodi



"I wish I was on a cruise in the Bahamas with my imaginary boyfriend."

- Monyet Hill, freshman



"I'd be going to Alabama to visit my family."

- Kennedy Lawson, Wood Co. manager



"Schoolwork."

- Bryan Petrak, senior



"Going abroad to any nice, liberal nation."

- Ellen Ayres, freshman



"Going to visit my aunt in Ft. Lauderdale...Oh wait! I am doing that!"

- Eric Rose, sophomore

Only They Can Prevent Club Fires

▲ FIRE page 8

The majority of clubs in the D.C. area do not frequently see much pyrotechnic use. Dana McIntosh, DJ Rex Dna for Alchemy, held at Nation night club every Thursday night said he has never seen any pyrotechnics outside of the occasional fire eater.

"There are no regulations that I am conscious of concerning pyro," McIntosh said. "Our managers personally brief the performers, for instance, fire eaters, in which case they are not permitted to breathe fire more than a few feet and are not allowed to let the flame come into contact with anything whatsoever."

McIntosh said that Nation night club was built to code somewhat recently and is inspected regularly, and always meets or exceeds safety requirements. They have plainly marked exit doors, a sprinkler system and security staff with radios for constant contact with each other to deal rapidly with any situation.

"The problem with the club in Rhode Island was that it was old and therefore grandfathered out of a lot of their safety regulations, like having sprinklers or lit exits," McIntosh said.

Orbit's, an eatery/club in Fredericksburg does not have a current emergency plan. Sprinklers are not obligatory due to the club's historical structure,

but club owner Kim Place assures patrons that it is reasonably safe.

"We have two fire doors, two non-fire doors, huge windows," Place said. "We have no emergency plan to speak of as it is very easy to get out of this building."

Nonetheless, Orbit's has lighted exit signs, several fire extinguishers, and a very comprehensive kitchen fire suppression system.

Mary Washington College senior and club attendee Kerry Cerillo says she usually feels pretty safe at clubs.

"As long as no one is fighting, throwing bar stools, puking near me, dirty old men aren't trying to put the moves on me and no fires break out, I feel pretty safe," said Cerillo.

There is a dispute over who is accountable for deaths and injuries in the

Rhode Island fire. The club claims that the band is to blame, yet the band argues that it was the club's error since they had permission to use pyrotechnics.

"The sound proofing foam at the Rhode Island club was in fact exposed on the stage in several areas," said Wayne Carson, a consulting fire professional engineer of Virginia. "Even a cigarette could have ignited it."

Chris Knight, promoter, manager and DJ at the Dawning, was sombered by the event.

"From what I have seen so far, I have come to the personal conclusion that the club owners/promoters were very foolish," said Knight. "Allowing pyrotechnics in a wooden building with exposed sound proofing is very risky, and their patrons paid with their lives. It was a sobering experience for me. I

am very aware that if anything ever does go wrong at the Dawning, I am one of the responsible parties."

Many club owners fear a decrease in turnout due to the fire, but Knight does not think this tragedy will affect the Dawning.

"Mostly, we've just suffered an endless supply of bad jokes," Knight said. "I think people who attend our club know that we have a different situation."



Photo Courtesy blackcat.com

Patrons at the bar area of the Black Cat in D.C. Promoters say that the Black Cat is prepared in case of an emergency.

Sing, Sing a Song

▲ BELLA page 8

"They're getting their feet wet just like we are," she said. "It's not so much competition. There's a kind of reciprocity. By doing (Coed Naked) we got to know them really well."

The group recently returned from their most recent show in Rochester, New York on Feb. 8. Getting there was quite an issue, as they dealt with many conflicts to get there.

"Everything [in the Rochester trip] was against us, but looking back it was pretty hilarious and was definitely worthwhile," said senior Libby Eddy.

Along the drive, Bella ran into several conflicts, such as a snowstorm, getting lost, and going the wrong way on the Delaware Memorial Bridge—how they managed that feat is still a mystery to the girls. Some members were locked out of their car while it was still running.

"Only female drivers," said freshman Bella musical director Alexa Donaldson, with a smirk.

For the near future, Bella's most exciting news is their new CD, scheduled to come out in Fall 2003. They've been intermittently recording since November of last year.

"They've got a great sound," said sophomore Jeffrey Longo, Bella's producer/recorder. "They definitely love what they do."

Longo said he has had a lot of fun recording them. "They have a lot of character," he said. "I get to hear the more interesting details of their group workings. Some of these conversations would make great outtakes."

Some of the songs they plan on featuring on the CD include Guster's "So Long," Counting Crows' "Colorblind," and Michelle Branch's "Goodbye to You." They are also expecting to release a demo in the spring with three or four songs on it. They are expecting the final release to have up to ten or twelve total songs.

For more information, check out BellaCappella's website at <http://www.geocities.com/bellacappella/>.

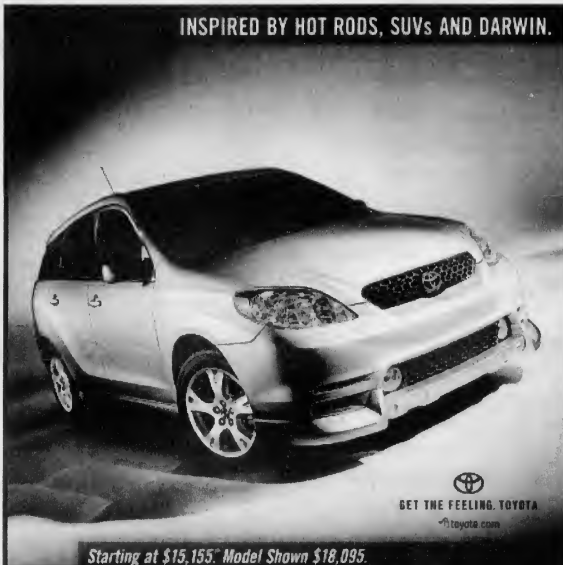
Bella's webmaster Lisa Maloney stated that it was still in the preliminary stages and on a temporary site, but you can still visit it to look at pictures and get concert dates, such as the one coming April 26 show with Invoice and Symphonics.

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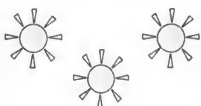
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After the night of Feb. 20's fatal fire at The Station Concert Club in West Warwick, R.I., many local clubs are questioning the safety of their own venues. Onstage pyrotechnics during a Great White performance ignited the small club, killing 98 people and injuring nearly 190 others.

The incident has brought about many concerns over the safety of clubs in our area; the question that is on everyone's mind is if could something like this happen around here.

"It is possible," said Kellowna Vincent, promoter of the D.C. club, held once a month at The Black Cat nightclub in Washington D.C. "A tragedy can happen anytime, anywhere. All one can do is make sure preventative measures are in place, as well as key responses."

Following the R.I. club fire, the majority of nightclubs in the D.C. and Richmond areas were inspected extensively. Several clubs were forced to take measures to modify their safety.

"The extinguishers in the DJ booths are new," said Todd Pierce, promoter of the D.C. club Bar Nun. "They were not required but we added them for piece of mind. This way, the DJs will also have the ability to help out if a situation were to occur."

Bar Nun has clearly marked exits, which are required by the Building Officials Code Administrators International (BOCA), a sprinkler system and countless fire extinguishers located in each DJ booth, each bar, the office, the kitchen and at the main door.

"If something were to occur, our security and hosting staff, as well as

the DJs on the mic, are to direct patrons to one of four exits," said Pierce. "We also have multiple hardwired alarms that go directly to the fire station."

Midnight, a gothic/industrial/synthpop dance party, held Saturday nights at The Meeting Place in D.C. had to stop using candles as table lighting.

"While many clubs, particularly those in the gothic scene, use candles for lighting, we now prohibit them due to safety concerns," said Scott Royce, promoter of Midnight.

Revelations nightclub, held Thursday nights at the 929 Club in Richmond, recently added a paragraph about pyrotechnics in all of their contracts, regardless of the possibility of use or not.

"This does not mean that there will be less pyro use," said D.J. Stern, promoter of Revelations. "But I am betting that will be the case since most bands do not like to hassle with legal issues."

For the most part, the majority of clubs in the D.C. area already had some sort of emergency plan before the Rhode Island incident.

"We have multiple exits and all the staff is aware of the exits and of the danger of mass hysteria," said Vincent, Dolhouse promoter. "We would do our best to organize the crowd in a manner that would not provoke fear or chaos and direct them to the exits in an orderly fashion."

Chris Knight, promoter, manager, and DJ Xiane at the Dawning, held at the Tokyo Rose in Charlottesville, said that they also had an emergency plan.

"We would direct folks to calmly exit from the two clearly marked areas to the outside." Knight said. "It is a rather small club, which helps us keep control of the crowd."

▼ see FIRE, page 9

How Do You Wish You Were Spending Spring Break?

Photos and Interviews by Kathleen Tripodi



"I wish I was on a cruise in the Bahamas with my imaginary boyfriend."

- Monyet Hill, freshman



"I'd be going to Alabama to visit my family."

- Kennedy Lawson, Wood Co. manager



"Schoolwork."

- Bryan Petrak, senior



"Going abroad to any nice, liberal nation."

- Ellen Ayres, freshman



"Going to visit my aunt in Ft. Lauderdale...Oh wait! I am doing that!"

- Eric Rose, sophomore

Only They Can Prevent Club Fires

▲ FIRE, page 8

The majority of clubs in the D.C. area do not frequently see much pyrotechnic use. Dana McIntosh, DJ Ras Dna for Alchemy, held at Nation night club every Thursday night said he has never seen any pyrotechnics outside of the occasional fire eater.

"There are no regulations that I am conscious of concerning pyro," McIntosh said. "Our managers personally brief the performers, for instance, fire eaters, in which case they are not permitted to breathe fire more than a few feet and are not allowed to let the flame come into contact with anything whatsoever."

McIntosh said that Nation night club was built to code somewhat recently and is inspected regularly, and always meets or exceeds safety requirements. They have plainly marked exit doors, a sprinkler system and security staff with radios for constant contact with each other to deal rapidly with any situation.

"The problem with the club in Rhode Island was that it was old and therefore grandfathered out of a lot of their safety regulations, like having sprinklers or lit exits," McIntosh said.

Orbit's, an entry/club in Fredericksburg does not have a current emergency plan. Sprinklers are not obligatory due to the club's historical structure,

but club owner Kim Place assures patrons that it is reasonably safe.

"We have two fire doors, two non-fire doors, huge windows," Place said. "We have no emergency plan to speak of as it is very easy to get out of this building."

Nonetheless, Orbit's has lighted exit signs, several fire extinguishers, and a very comprehensive kitchen fire suppression system.

Mary Washington College senior and club attendee Kerry Cerillo says she usually feels pretty safe at clubs.

"As long as no one is fighting, throwing bar stools, puking near me, dirty old men aren't trying to put the moves on me and no fires break out, I feel pretty safe," said Cerillo.

There is a dispute over who is accountable for deaths and injuries in the

Rhode Island fire. The club claims that the band is to blame, yet the band argues that it was the club's error since they had permission to use pyrotechnics.

"The sound proofing foam at the Rhode Island club was in fact exposed on the stage in several areas," said Wayne Carson, a consulting fire professional engineer of Virginia. "Even a cigarette could have ignited it."

Chris Knight, promoter, manager and DJ at the Dawning, was sombered by the event.

"From what I have seen so far, I have come to the personal conclusion that the club owners/promoters were very foolish," said Knight. "Allowing pyrotechnics in a wooden building with exposed sound proofing is very risky, and their patrons paid with their lives. It was a sobering experience for me. I am very aware that if anything ever does go wrong at the Dawning, I am one of the responsible parties."

Many club owners fear a decrease in turnout due to the fire, but Knight does not think this tragedy will affect the Dawning.

"Mostly, we've just suffered an endless supply of bad jokes," Knight said. "I think people who attend our club know that we have a different situation."



Photo Courtesy blackcat.com

Patrons at the bar area of the Black Cat in D.C. Promoters say that the Black Cat is prepared in case of an emergency.

Sing, Sing a Song

▲ BELLA, page 8

"They're getting their feet wet just like we are," she said. "It's not so much competition. There's a kind of reciprocity. By doing (Coed Naked) we got to know them really well."

The group recently returned from their most recent show in Rochester, New York on Feb. 8. Getting there was quite an issue, as they dealt with many conflicts to get there.

"Everything [in the Rochester trip] was against us, but looking back it was pretty hilarious and was definitely worthwhile," said senior Libby Eddy.

Along the drive, Bella ran into several conflicts, such as a snowstorm, getting lost, and going the wrong way on the Delaware Memorial Bridge—how they managed that feat is still a mystery to the girls. Some members were locked out of their car while it was still running.

"Only female drivers," said freshman Bella musical director Alexa Donaldson, with a smirk.

For the near future, Bella's most exciting news is their new CD, scheduled to come out in Fall 2003. They've been intermittently recording since November of last year.

"They've got a great sound," said sophomore Jeffrey Longo, Bella's producer/recorder. "They definitely love what they do."

Longo said he has had a lot of fun recording them. "They have a lot of character," he said. "I get to hear the more interesting details of their group workings. Some of these conversations would make great outtakes."

Some of the songs they plan on featuring on the CD include Guster's "So Long," Counting Crows' "Colorblind," and Michelle Branch's "Goodbye to You." They are also expecting to release a demo in the spring with three or four songs on it. They are expecting the final release to have up to ten or twelve total songs.

For more information, check out BellaCappella's website at <http://www.geocities.com/bellacappella/>.

Bella's webmaster Lisa Maloney stated that it was still in the preliminary stages and on a temporary site, but you can still visit it to look at pictures and get concert dates, such as the one coming April 26 show with Invoice and Symphonics.

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This bracelet was a gift Amber Apodaca received from the center where she helped teens with drug and alcohol problems. She was wearing it when an underage drunk driver took her life.

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The Bully Who Was Scared Of Itself

▲ **VIOLENCE**, page 3

just know some basic facts about the spread of disease, but this is the ridiculous. If we were to be truly involved in biological warfare, the plastic and duct tape would serve no more than to mark your house as someone who doesn't understand tucked inside a Saran Wrap coffin.

That's the problem; we don't understand what we're getting into. As an American I feel painfully unaware of our previous foreign relations with the Middle East and can't help but feeling as though our country is not doing anything to alleviate this confusion. Bush wants us to feel war is our only choice. There is no critical thinking or communication going on here. Communication is a skill that humans are incredibly blessed with, but only if we take advantage of this tool. Our ability to communicate in so many languages and mediums is part of what separates us from animals.

Violence results from the deadly combination of lumping people together and the absence of reason (read: bombing Iraq). Do we honestly believe that bombing another country will not result in the deaths of innocent civilians? A human life is a human life and innocent civilians are innocent regardless of which country they call home.

What ever happened to the concept "mutual assured destruction" that was invented not so long ago? The basic point of it is this: we all own large weapons that could destroy us all and the knowledge of this means we're not going to do anything to each other because someone may go crazy and push the button. It's a horrible way to live, but it is based on logic.

The fact that we all have the capacity for such destruction means that it would be stupid to start a large scale war, because tempers flare up and in the heat of battle it is incredibly likely someone will push a button if for no other reason than out of spite.

Yet here we are, an incredibly powerful country, unable to rise above it. We're painfully unable to live out our own lives. We are prepared to lash out at Iraq, to kill however many people it takes so that our president will feel better about himself and the Bush

legacy (which is frighteningly dependent on some involvement with Saddam Hussein). We are the bully who isn't satisfied with his own lunch money, but lashes out at others for more. There is no logic behind it, no sound reasoning. We can't even predict what will happen in Iraq if we do meet our goal of killing Saddam Hussein (although I seriously doubt Iraq's going to start waving American flags and celebrating). For some reason bullies learned to equate physical violence with being strong. But it takes a far greater strength to rise above it.

And then it hits me: we are a nation of bullies. Look around. We are being told to hate and make assumptions and equate patriotism with bombing Iraq. We are being led to war by a president who continuously claims that war is his last choice, but has done nothing to initiate communication in other forms. As an American, I again feel painfully ignorant of all that has gone on in the Middle East leading up to these events. The worst part is that I know knowledge is being covered up to make war seem like our only option. As if it is "our" choice anyway. We are being deprived of knowledge and thus forced into this bullying position. We wrap ourselves in a protective blanket under the name "homeland security" and like an angry animal, lash out at everything around us, even each other.

We resort to violence because we are literally scared stupid. As Michael Moore points out, we are so scared of each other, we Americans lock our doors at night and buy guns "just in case" while

our neighbors in Canada have virtually no homicides and all of the people he interviewed felt comfortable leaving their doors unlocked.

Question generalizations that people make. Question your government, your church, and your friends. Question this editorial. Your mother was wrong, monsters do exist. Their names are ignorance, oppression and hatred and chances are that you're well acquainted with them

Beth Mills is a senior.

"The plastic and duct tape would serve no more than...a Saran Wrap coffin."

Not Bad By Comparison

▲ **GENOCIDE**, page 3

American actions as violating the rights of others overseas. But I have some news for you here. Most official military actions, with the exception of the Vietnam War, were in conjunction with the U.N. Is the U.N. guilty of genocide too? As much as I am not in favor of the U.N., I don't think it would commit itself to genocidal actions. If we look at the context in which some of these alleged violations of rights occurred overseas, we see that it was not with the official United States intent to violate rights but to in fact promote United States interests abroad. Prove that the United States, in concert with the U.N., was interested in the extermination of whole groups overseas then you'll shock me again.

Second, we'll deal with the implicit claim that African-Americans deserve some kind of payment in some kind of form for many years of oppression. I'll contend that the United States has tried to do this with affirmative action and we've seen how well that went over. It resulted in people being hired for the color of their skin or some other external quality; I like to call this racism from pity. The United States has

tried, legitimately, to equalize the rights of Africa-Americans and other minorities with that of everyone else. If there is some action that the United States could do to repay African-Americans while not at the expense of others, I would be glad to hear it, but quite frankly I don't think that option exists.

Finally, I would like to call attention to the rhetorical danger of using the word "genocide" with reckless abandon such as I believe Ms. Lloyd has. She stated the beginning of my argument succinctly in the beginning of her article: "the very word induces a sense of terror and evil like no other." I would agree and add that it is supposed to do this. However, using this word when other words are better suited unnecessarily clouds the true meaning of the word. Thus, when people say there is a genocide occurring in a country

they may understand the severity of the word differently than the person next to them. The main policy consequence of this is that the word "genocide" will not elicit the same call to action as it once

had and it won't create the same sense of disgust that attracted you to reading the original column by Ms. Lloyd. The obvious alternative is to choose better words for what you are

"I would like to call attention to the rhetorical danger of using the word 'genocide' with reckless abandon."

describing such as racism, bigotry, or other such words.

This article is not meant to stamp out the voice of opposing opinions. As I said in the beginning, become involved with politics and share what you think, for that is the only way you truly become educated about what you believe in, in aspect, I applaud Ms. Lloyd. But I'm afraid we'll just have to agree to disagree on this matter of genocide.

Michael Hagan is a junior.

EXTRA FAST FACT (it's your lucky day!): The first known recorded sermon on duct tape is at <http://www.octanecreative.com/ducttape/Gospel/index.html>. And yes, you can hear Rev. Mark A. Simone of Ohio ripping duct tape in the background.

EXTRA EXTRA FAST FACT: Duct tape comes in a variety of colors, not just gray. Some of the colors are "flamingo hot pink," brown camouflage, and royal blue.



The Weekly Wassup

What to do... Where to go?!



Weekly Wassup????

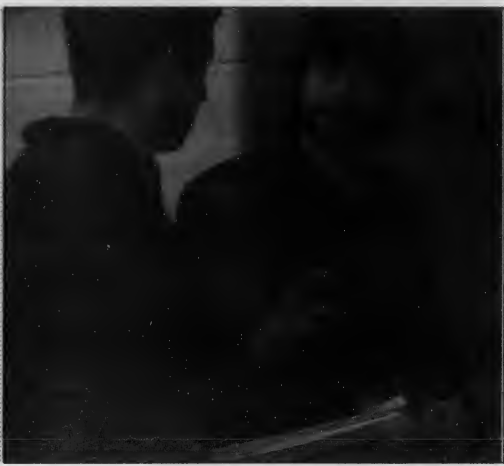
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Worth Stokes/Bullet

Filmmaker Ken Burns talks to sophomore Orrin Konheim.

Ken Burns Speaks At Forum

Burns Says Studying History Makes Life Happier

By BRIDGET MURPHY
Assistant Features Editor

On Feb. 26, filmmaker Ken Burns told an audience of Mary Washington College students and faculty that if he were a female, he'd be pregnant all the time.

"I just get so excited about it. I can't say 'no' to any project," Burns said.

From the looks of the crowd gathered in Dodd Auditorium at 8 p.m. last Wednesday to hear Burns speak at the Fredericksburg Forum, his audience couldn't say "no" either, despite formidable weather conditions.

"I would say about 900 to 1,000 people showed up," said Assistant Director of Events Louise Ashby. "The auditorium was two thirds full."

For Burns, 49, this was a second attempt in appearing for the Forum. He cancelled his previously scheduled appearance in December due to illness. Wednesday's Forum was once again threatened by cancellation due to a rapidly materializing snowstorm.

Many ticket-holders to the sold-out forum found it too difficult to get to Dodd. One man's obstacle turned out to be another man's opportunity when the Forum decided to open up ticket sales to whoever weathered the harsh conditions to come out and see Burns.

"We had about 50 students [buy tickets] and 8 from the general public," Ashby said.

Burns' forum speech was centered around his work on establishing an American identity in three of his best-known documentaries: "Baseball," "Jazz" and "The Civil War." Wednesday afternoon students were given the opportunity to see Burns prior to his forum appearance when the filmmaker entertained a crowd of approximately 90 people in the Great Hall, winking tales of adventures in filmmaking and expressing his enthusiasm for history.

"We can't possibly know where we are and where we are going unless we know where we have been," Burns said.

Burns' first film shows where he's been. After creating his own company, Florentine Films, with a few of his colleagues, Burns, a Brooklyn native, set out to make a documentary on the Brooklyn Bridge. Burns got a taste of success right away when "The Brooklyn Bridge," his first project, was nominated for an Academy Award.

After graduating from Hampshire College in Amherst, Mass. in 1975, Burns created more than 20 critically acclaimed films on American history within his last 25 years of filmmaking. His films focus on a quest to establish an American identity.

"His films are so widely and well received that historian Stephen Ambrose once said, 'More Americans get their history from Ken Burns than from any other source.'"

While the focus of his films is history, Burns says that he is no expert on the subject.

"I'm not a historian. I'm an amateur historian," he said. "I'm a documentary filmmaker. That's what I do for a living and it's sort of interesting that it's been hijacked by history."

In fact, Burns told a class of students during a question and answer period that he hasn't taken an American history course since eleventh grade. "When they made me," he said.

Associate Professor of English, Linguistics and Speech Gardner Campbell, who teaches film studies courses talked about meeting with Burns on an artistic level.

"I'm always interested in the artist's creative processes, and we spent a great deal of time talking about that," he said. "As we were talking, the conversation turned to methods of filmmaking. He doesn't follow the same process as in Hollywood."

Campbell also interviewed Burns for an upcoming issue of *MWC Today*.

Burns' unconventional filmmaking and charismatic storytelling is precisely what won him two Emmy Awards, two Grammy Awards, Producer of the Year, a People's Choice award along with a myriad of other honors for his work.

Although Burns, who now lives and works in Walpole, N.H., is in the business of retelling history, he finds time to make a little bit of it as well. Burns told his forum audience that when his Civil War series was first broadcast in September of 1990, the United States was gearing up to go to war with Iraq.

According to Burns, Americans at that time had war-far-er and were enthusiastic about sending troops to Iraq until his Civil War series aired.

"Something like 75 or 80 percent of the American public on Sept. 23, when the Civil War went off in 1990, were totally excited about going to war," Burns said. "In fact, within days of the five evenings the series was on, that plummeted 25 to 30 percent which we considered the greatest review we've ever had."

Earlier that day, Burns related to students the time he was introduced to General Norman Schwarzkopf.

"I was introduced by Dick Cheney, as a matter of fact, who I had known for many, many years," Burns said.

According to Burns, the General seemed rather unimpressed with him at first. Then Cheney stepped up.

"He said, 'General, this is the man that made the Civil War series.' And [Schwarzkopf] got up out of his chair, grabbed me by both hands, the way only my aunt does, and he held my hand for the next three or four minutes and described to me as he does in his autobiography that he had been given the Civil War series by General Powell." Schwarzkopf described to Burns how he watched the series every day while on his NordicTrack in his bunker, planning the Gulf War. Burns' military project work does not stop with his military projects and influence.

Associate Professor of English, Linguistics and Speech and faculty advisor to *The Bulletin*, Stephen Watkins, pointed out the variety of Burns' work in documentaries when he introduced Burns to his class.

"Through his documentary work, Ken Burns has been able to play a little pro-ball, hang out at Monticello, have his hand in the mythic construction of the Brooklyn Bridge and even participate in the Civil War," Watkins said.

Burns weathered inclement conditions to finally speak before two classes in the Great Hall last Wednesday before appearing as a guest speaker at the Fredericksburg Forum in Dodd auditorium that evening. For his appearance, Burns was paid \$25,000 through Forum ticket sales.

Though the weather was unappealing, Burns kept his audience interested by his trivial tidbits of American History.

"You know," Burns said, "Lincoln's brother-in-law owned slaves and fought for the confederacy."

Assistant Professor of English, Linguistics and Speech Christopher Foss thought Burns' visit was fascinating.

"I really found his points on the importance of history inspiring and his vision of history poetic," he said. "I thought it was an inspiring visit."

No doubt, that was Burns' purpose. As he wrapped up his speech to a class of students, Burns stood with both hands on the podium and expressed his message with emotion.

"There's an extraordinary conversation going on between the past and the present all the time," he said.

"You can either participate in it or not participate in it. And if you do participate in it you will be better, you will be healthier, you will be smarter, you will be richer, you will be happier."

Course Evaluations To Change?

Faculty Senate To Vote On Revising Questionnaire

By CONOR REILLY
Staff Writer

Towards the end of the semester, professors vanish after handing students a blank sheet of yellow paper asking for "comments about the course" and nothing more. Next year, this piece of paper may come with something a bit more specific and constructive.

The Faculty Senate is considering a new student evaluation form after the Dean of Faculty cancelled use of the previous student questionnaire and evaluation as a cost saving measure. The new form is designed to lower the cost while providing useful feedback for the faculty and administration. If passed by the Faculty Senate, it would be implemented in the fall semester of 2003.

According to Philip Hall, vice president for academic affairs and dean of faculty, the Student Instructional Report (SIR II), which the college stopped using last semester, cost approximately \$15,000 a year to process and administer. But in addition to the high cost involved, the faculty had other issues regarding this evaluation form.

"The SIR II is advertised as offering a comparative reference for teacher performance," said Hall. "But the faculty felt that the list of institutions that used this form were nothing like Mary Washington College, so the statistics were not comparative."

"It took quite a while to get the data back after it was processed," said Jodie Hayob, chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee and associate professor of Environmental Science and Geology.

Hayob said this made it difficult for professors to make productive changes in their courses.

The statistical results generated by the SIR II are also suspect by many of the professors, and some faculty members are concerned that the data was being misused by the administration.

"Many faculty members didn't like the form," said Craig Vasey, chairperson of Classics, Philosophy and Religion. "The numbers that the SIR II comes up with are not scientific or statistically significant, but higher numbers lead to higher merit pay and lower numbers lead to lower merit pay."

Often times students do not see the usefulness of the old student evaluation forms.

"I don't believe that the forms that I filled out by freshman and sophomore year were effective," said junior Kimberly Boelte.

The new student evaluation form was drafted by

faculty members Mary Rigby, Suzanne Sumner, Allyson Poska and Jodie Hayob. They hope that this form will address the problems that the previous form had. The new form has only twelve questions, as opposed to the SIR II, which has over forty.

On the proposed evaluation form, students are asked to rate each question on a scale from 1 (meaning that the student strongly disagrees with the statement) to 5 (meaning that the student strongly agrees with the statement). The questions are specifically about the instructor and his or her performance in the class, rather than the content of the course, and include statements like, "The instructor met the class and/or lab on time and as scheduled" and "The instructor provided clear criteria for grading" among others.

From the point of view of the administration, a new evaluation form would offer a way to numerically evaluate teacher performance.

"[A new evaluation form] will be an important factor in tenure decisions, and a big measure of teacher effectiveness," Hall said.

According to Hayob, the feedback from the forms benefit students.

"The real benefit of the forms is to use them over time," said Hayob. "It can help a professor to change their curriculum not over a semester, but over two or three years."

Currently, the college has no standardized evaluation form. Instead, there is a yellow comment sheet where students are asked to give general information about the class or instructor.

Ideally the forms will be read by the Dean of Faculty, the department chair and the professor.

According to Hall, he does not read them except in extreme cases.

"My own use of [the comment sheets] is to evaluate the outliers. I'll read the student comments if someone is very good or very bad."

Hayob is concerned about the ability of the comment sheets to provide any good information. "The comments are not useful," said Hayob. "A professor could get a great evaluation, but the student may not have learned a damn thing."

The Faculty Senate will vote on the new student evaluation form this week. Even if it is passed, though, the general faculty can call for a vote to accept or deny the form. The final decision will be made sometime before the end of this semester. If the form does not pass, professors will likely use the yellow comment sheets next year as well.



Don't Forget to Vote!!! Elections today Outside the Eagle's Nest

Up & Coming SGA Events CSA Meeting

Today, Tan Lounge 5:00pm

Special Guest:

Stephanie Smith, Disabilities Services

Powder Puff Football

Get your team together and sign up!

Be considerate:
Writing on buildings is a judicial
offense!